

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 SCI-06 COME-00 AGR-20

OPIC-12 SWF-02 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 SP-03 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 115933

R 062053Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7601

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, EAID, EPAP, AR, US

SUBJ: FUTURE US-ARGENTINE TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY: FONOFF PLANNING DIRECTOR DESMARAS HAS RAISED IDEA OF EARLY CONSIDERATION BY US AND ARGENTINA OF THEIR FUTUE BILATERAL COOPERATION IN TECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY, FURTHER DISCUSSIONS SUGGESTED WITHIN TWO MONTHS. IT SEEMS QUITE CLEAR THAT ARGENTINA, AT LEAST IN SOME AREAS, MAY PREFER BILATERAL AS OPPOSED TO MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING COURSE FOLLOW UP CONVERSATION RE SCHEDULING SUB GROUP MEETINGS ON SICENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (SEPTTEL) FONOFF PLANNING DIRECTOR DESMARAS (WHO WAS RAPORTEUR AT BRASILIA WORKING GROUP (WG) MEETING) TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH SCIATT IN SERIOUS WAY THE QUESTION OF FUTRE TRENDS IN OUR BILATERAL TECHNOLOGICAL COLLARBORATION, INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. THRUST OF DESMARAS VIEWS WERE (A) THAT THE OLD MECHANISMS NEEDED TO BE CHANGED; (B) THAT PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL FIELD, THERE WAS ROOM FOR GREATLY INCREASED US-ARGENTINE COOPERATION TO HELP MEET THE WORLD'S FUTURE FOOD NEEDS; (C) THAT ARGENTINA HAS AN "INFRASTRUCTURE" MORE

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DEVELLPED THAN MOST OF LATAM ON WHICH TO BUILD.

4. EXPANDING ON POSSIBLE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AREAS, DESMARAS CITED FOOD TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY PROCESSING, STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION, AS WELL AS DISEASE CONTROL (READ FOOT AND MOUTH). HE SUGGESTED THAT IN THE FUTURE THE US AND ARGENTINA MIGHT SERVE AS "PARTNERS" JOINING FORCES TO HELP FEED SUCH COUNTRIES AS JAPAN.

5. SCIATT NOTED THAT ARGENTINA HAD GRADUATED FROM THE STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT WHEREBY IT WAS ELIGIBLE FOR AID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT PRESENT ATTITUDES ON THE PART OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS INTA WERE NOT EXACTLY OPEN TO COLLABORATION WITH US ON A MEANINGFUL SCALE. (DESMAREAS ACKNOWLEDGE THE LATTER, BUT NOTED THAT THERE WERE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS). SCIATT DID STATE THAT THE THOUGHT THAT IN THE LONG RANGE WE WERE QUITE OPEN TO INCREASED COLLABORATION WITH ARGENTINA TECHNOLOGICALLY AND PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL AREA IN VIEW OF THE WORLDWIDE PROBLEM OF FOOD SHORTAGES WHICH WERE ON THE HORIZON. HE NOTED THAT THIS COULD BE AN IMPORTANT FIELD FOR DISCUSSION IN THE WORKING GROUP SPHERE. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE POSSIBILITY FOR CHANGING MECHANISMS WAS CERTAINLY THERE AT PRESENT AND WAS IMPLICIT IN THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO THE BOGOTA DECLARATION.

6. DESMARAS SEEMED TO WISH TO PRESS THE BILATERAL APPROACH WITH US WITH SOME URGENCY; HE SUGGESTED A FURTHER MEETING WITH THE SCIATT ON THE SUBJECT "WITHIN TWO MONTHS". PRIOR TO THIS HE INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE INTERAGENCY MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT WITHIN THE GOA.

7. FONOFF INTERNATIONAL ECON RELATIONS UNDER SECRETARY BECKMANN SAT IN ON THE END OF THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS.

8. COMMENT: WHETHER DESMARAS CAN ACHIEVE ANY KIND OF GOA CONSENSUS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH US ON THIS SUBJECT IS PERHAPS SOMEWHAT PROBLEMATIC. TIMING OF HIS INITIATIVE APPEARS RELATED TO WG DELIBERATIONS ON S/TT AND OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT WILL PROBABLY INFLUENCE ARGENTINE POSITIONS IN THE WG. OF MOST INTEREST WOULD SEEM TO BE THE DEFINITE INDICATION OF AN ARGENTINE INTEREST FOR BILATERAL AS OPPOSED TO MULTILATERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MECHANISM FOR ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AT LEAST IN CERTAIN SELECTED PRIORITY AREAS. OUR OWN FEELING WE MUST ADD SUPPORTS THE VIEW THAT IN THE LONG RUN IT WILL BE THIS KIND OF COOPERATION WHICH WILL ACCOMPLISH THE MOST REAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, FOODS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS05850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740215-0015
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740872/aaaacjng.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE US-ARGENTINE TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
TAGS: TECH, EAID, EPAP, AR, US, (DESMARAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005